



The CJA Monitor



Volume 1, Issue 1

Hampton-Newport News Criminal Justice Agency

Winter, 2004

From the Director

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Criminal Justice Agency's (CJA) newest publication, *The CJA Monitor*. Our intent is to provide readers with a short, easy-to-read update of Agency issues, activities, and highlights on a quarterly basis.

This first issue focuses on some key growth and workload factors within the Agency. The timing of this information is important – as the General Assembly convened January 14th. I know that I'm not alone in my concern for the state funds that support necessary services in Hampton and Newport News— including those supporting our local criminal justice activities.

The public outcry for the pub-

lic safety arena has been limited compared to other areas in recent years. This is a compliment in many ways – public safety agencies of all types are doing good work and the general public has little complaint. However the good work found in the agencies serving Hampton and Newport News *must* be sustained and constantly improved upon if we truly want to be responsive to the citizens in the community, appropriately address criminal activity, reduce the risk of recidivism, and do it at a price taxpayers can afford.

Like many others, the CJA has faced difficult financial circumstances in the past few years. The CJA has laid off

staff, left vacancies unfilled, and significantly reduced funds for treatment services, training, and basic operating supplies. As we look forward to the next two years, the CJA expects level funding unless the legislature adds additional funds. This is concerning as we will need to fund raises, increases in rent, and other costs.

At this time, we are unsure of the exact impact level funding will have on CJA operations. We are hopeful legislature will consider a modest increase for pretrial services and local community corrections agencies such as the CJA.

Tracey L. Jenkins
Director

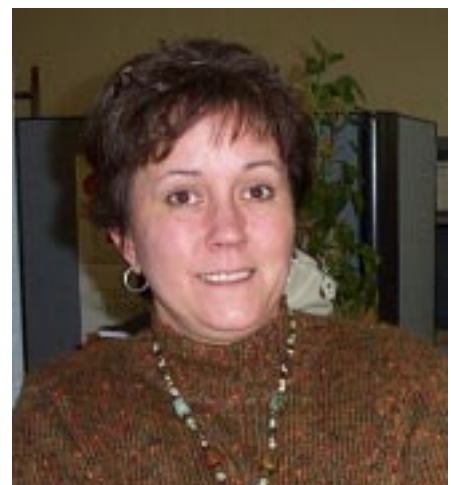
Substance Abuse and First Offender Programming

With the number of alcohol and drug using offenders passing through the Courts of Hampton and Newport News each year, the CJA constantly looks for ways to improve and increase supervision, service, and treatment options.

We are pleased to say that the CJA has three Certified Substance Abuse Counselors (CSACs) on our staff: Kathy Chernicky, Sheila Daly, and Danielle Angel. All other Community Corrections and Pretrial case management

staff, and many Pretrial investigative staff, receive specialized substance abuse training from nationally recognized trainers and staff from the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board (CSB).

Alcohol and drug using individuals placed under the supervision of the Community Corrections Divisions (CCD) or Pretrial Services Divisions (PTS) are subject to a substance use screening and then a full assessment. The



Kathy Chernicky, CSAC

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Substance Abuse and First Offender Programming

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assessment allows our staff to determine the level of treatment needed as well as any other special services. Though not all staff administer the particular assessment used, most have been fully trained on it and are certified to administer other assessments.

In order to minimize wait times, and maximize success, the CJA has several in-house groups for those needing the lowest level of substance use intervention. These groups are facilitated by our staff CSACs with other staff assisting. We recently added a workbook to the curriculum of these groups to help participants better understand the "whys" and consequences of their behavior. Because of the typically short supervision time available for Pretrial clients, a special group has been designed to provide an appropriate level of intervention for those under Pretrial supervision with low needs.

The Center for Therapeutic Jus-

tice works with us and conducts groups for those needing higher levels of treatment. For those needing the highest levels of treatment, the CJA works primarily with the CSB. These experts will conduct additional assessments as needed and work closely with CJA staff regarding individual client progress.

In addition to the various types of substance use intervention available, the CJA's CSACs and other trained staff work together to "staff" difficult cases and identify resources to aid in meeting supervision and service needs. Furthermore, one CSAC is made available for individual counseling for any offender under the supervision of a non-certified staff member.

In addition to the above, the CJA maintains basic supervision requirements, monitors community service requirements, and facilitates other cost and restitution requirements of substance using offenders while they are under active supervision.

While it is our intention to work

with the substance abusing population in a way that not only ensures their success under supervision, but in one that helps refocus their lives, the population is a difficult one. For those who have a difficult time and meet substance abuse and other eligibility criteria, the CJA may recommend that the Court send a client to a more structured environment, such as the Drug Court Treatment Program.

The CJA's mission and vision necessitate that we constantly look for supervision methods, treatment approaches, and services that help direct offenders to more productive lifestyles. Despite the many budget limitations, the CJA has maintained a commitment to its mission and vision in this area.

Despite limited funding and budget reductions, the CJA remains committed to strong substance abuse and first offender programming. Our staff have been instrumental in helping the Agency keep this commitment.

Community Service Worksites

Through the efforts of Community Correction Officers Chrissy Bellino, Ridgley Brewster, Brooke Daniels and Mary Pigot, the CJA either added or renewed 65 agreements for Community Service sites in both the Cities of Hampton and Newport News.

The sites were then separated by geographical location and posted on the agency's new internal webpage. With all sites, their locations and regulations just a mouse click away, staff

can now match clients to sites in a fraction of the time it took before, allowing staff to allocate more time to their ever-growing caseloads.

In FY2003 CJA clients performed 93,127 community service hours equating to \$479,604 in free, unpaid labor to the communities of Hampton and Newport News.

So far this year the CJA is on target to surpass last year's community service hours.

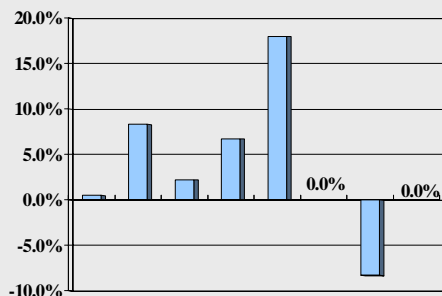


Brooke Daniels & Ridgley Brewster

CJA Growth

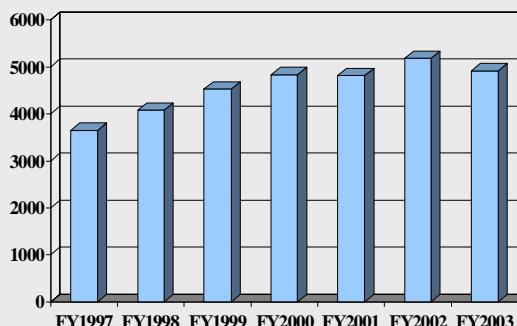
CJA Funding

The chart below shows the percent of increase or decrease in funding from the previous year



Funding for CCD and PT

Total Agency Placements



Placements for CCD and PT

The charts on this page are included to illustrate that while the CJA has experienced substantial and sustained growth in Pretrial Services & Community Corrections Placements; Community Corrections Average Daily

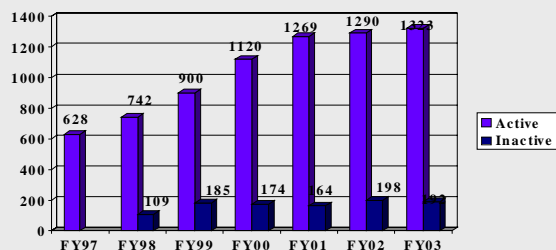
Caseloads and Pretrial Services Investigations over the past several years, funding for the CJA has not. Overall, since 1997 the CJA has seen a 35% increase in placements; however, has seen only a 20% increase in funding,

most of which occurred in FY2001.

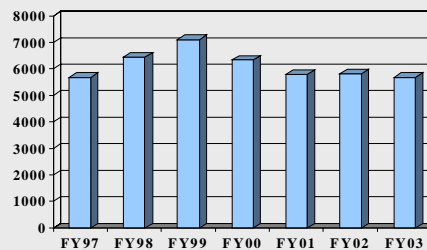
All CJA staff have taken on added responsibilities and are working diligently and efficiently to reduce the impact of under funding.

CCD Average Daily Caseload

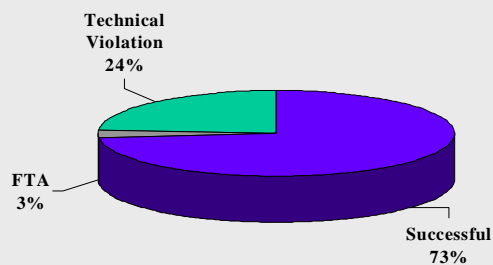
(Based on begin/end month figures)



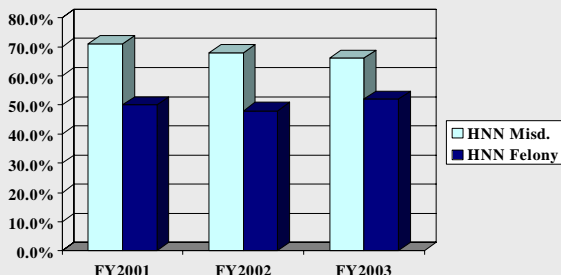
Pretrial Investigations



FY2003 Pretrial Closures



Community Corrections Success Rate Hampton-Newport News





The mission of the CJA is to promote public safety through the provision of community-based pretrial and post conviction programs, services and criminal justice planning to the Cities of Hampton and Newport News.

Mission Statement:

Hampton-Newport News CJA
136 Kings Street, VA
Hampton, VA 23669

Outstanding CJA Staff



Senior Pretrial Investigator *Kenneth Rolon* (above) received the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association's Distinguished Service award at this years annual conference in Charlottesville, VA.



Pretrial Services Case Manager *Sheila Daly* (above) recently completed her Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Certification (CSAC). Sheila has been with the Agency for nine years.

Community Corrections Case Manager *Danielle Angel* (*not pictured*) recently completed her Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Certification (CSAC). Danielle has been with the Agency for nine years and has worked in both Pretrial Services and Community Corrections.

Director *Tracey Jenkins* was elected to the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association's Executive committee.

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